



News Release

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WATER SCIENTISTS TO REMEASURE
SNAKE RIVER PLAIN WELL WATER LEVELS

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Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey, working under contract to the Idaho Department of Water Resources, will begin on March 25 a third round of water-level measurements of about 900 wells across the Eastern Snake River Plain, IDWR officials announced today.

The water level data to be collected will be used to improve water management of both ground and surface water resources in the area. The measurements are designed to record ground water levels in the wells prior to the start of the irrigation season. The process should take about two weeks.

The wells are scattered through a geographic area on the Eastern Snake River Plain from King Hill to Ashton. The major emphasis is in the irrigated corridor north of the Snake River, IDWR officials said.

IDWR and USGS officials are asking the public to help out in the water science effort by allowing access to their wells for the water-level measurements. The USGS personnel will carry official government identification and a letter from IDWR that explains the measurement effort.

USGS researchers previously measured the 900 wells in March and October of 2001. The wells also include about 630 wells that were originally measured in 1980 as part of an extensive USGS regional aquifer system analysis study. USGS personnel will also measure approximately 170 additional wells that were not measured as part of the 1980 study. The latest measurements will provide scientists with important information about changes in water levels over the past two decades.

For more information contact the USGS Idaho District Office at (208) 387-1300.